

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2005

Natural soda ash production in April was 928,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's production of 894,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 275,000 t, 4% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April was 1.36 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in March was 561,000 t, 4% higher than the March 2004 level of 541,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2005 were 409,000 t and 1,470 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through March 2004, compared with those of March 2003, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 106% higher, exports 7% lower, ending stocks 8% higher, and apparent consumption 7% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
March	937	264	1,500
April	913	281	1,430
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	318	1,400
August	929	266	1,490
September	907	230	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
November	902	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-April)	3,560	XX	5,580
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	858	360	1,350
March	894	285	1,410
April	928	275	1,360
Total	3,610	XX	5,560

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN MARCH 2005^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	53,500	\$6,800	\$127
Indonesia	44,200	6,360	144
Canada	40,900	4,960	121
Japan	40,000	5,390	135
Chile	30,800	4,110	133
Brazil	20,700	3,220	155
Taiwan	20,400	2,710	133
Thailand	19,900	2,710	136
Spain	17,600	2,380	135
China	15,000	1,910	127
Other	106,000	15,500	147
Total or average	409,000	56,000	137

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²April 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	24,600	2
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	22,000	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	20,000	2
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	81,700	7
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	110,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	65,200	6
China	--	12,200	15,000	27,200	2
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	31,800	3
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	4,200	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	5,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	17	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	5,710	1
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	2,700	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	105,000	9
Italy	--	44	--	44	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	96,200	9
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	47,200	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	10,500	1
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	169,000	15
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	28,700	3
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	13,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	16,700	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	14,000	1
Portugal	--	--	1,360	1,360	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	1,830	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	27,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	13,000	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	37,600	3
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	59,500	5
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	37,000	3
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	10,300	1
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	36,100	3
Vietnam	--	--	735	735	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	1,130,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²April 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2004:		
March	438	\$141
April	332	137
May	448	174
June	517	193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-March)	1,420	419
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
March	1,470	351
Total	2,920	729

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²April 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2004:						
March	937,000	438	423,000	--	26,900	541,000
April	913,000	332	403,000	16,800	--	494,000
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	600	322,000	65,600	--	576,000
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000	627	339,000	--	36,600	605,000
October	933,000	573	367,000	93,200	--	474,000
November	902,000	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total (January-March)	2,650,000	1,420	1,210,000	--	66,400	1,500,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,180	544,000
February	858,000	807	330,000	28,400	--	501,000
March	894,000	1,470	409,000	--	74,600	561,000
April	928,000	NA	NA	--	10,500	NA
January-March	2,680,000	2,920	1,130,000	--	52,400	1,610,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.